

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

LaHOOD, Ray (Republican)  
Representative, 18th District, Illinois  
Elected 1994 to the 104th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Peoria, Illinois - 6 December 1945

Home: Peoria, Illinois

Marital status: Married (Kathleen) - 4 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Spoon River Community College (Canton, IL), 1963-65; Bradley Univ, BS, 1971

Military: None

Profession: Congressional aide; teacher

Political: Administrative asst to former US Rep Tom Railsback (R-IL), 1977-82; IL House, 1982-83; Chief of staff to Rep Bob Michel (R-IL), 1990-94. Defeated G. Douglas Stephens (D) in the 1994 general election with 60% of the vote for the open seat of Rep Michel (R) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 67% of the vote and unopposed for reelection for 2002.

Rep LaHood is a moderate in the tradition of his predecessor, known for his mastery of House rules. Described as even-handed and bipartisan in his approach. Considered close to Speaker Hastert and often presides over the House. Ran unsuccessfully for the minority whip position in 2002, losing to the more conservative Roy Blunt. Looks out for the needs of his district's farming counties, and works hard for the corn-based fuel additive ethanol -- his district is the largest producer of ethanol. Caterpillar Inc., the district's biggest employer, is one of his strongest financial backers. Supports term limits and a balanced-budget amendment. Opposed parts of the GOP's Contract With America -- a middle class tax cut, reduction in capital gains tax, or increases in defense spending -- and was one of the few freshmen not to sign the contract. Said the President's executive order banning the use of permanent replacement workers during labor disputes involving government contractors would be a serious impediment to defense readiness. Said our relationship with Vietnam is wrong policy and we should insist on an accounting of MIAs.

In the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, was one of the organizers of a three-day bipartisan retreat for all House members to help Congress work better. Introduced H.J.Res. 28, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, was appointed to Select Cmte on Intelligence. Introduced H.J.Res. 23, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress voiced doubt that another BRAC round would occur. Signed a February 2001 letter urging the Air Force to buy two new C-130J aircraft in FY02 as promised.

Supported FY03 military construction funds for a new ANG facility in Springfield for the 183<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing. In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress has called for greater comity between the parties.

Additional: Member, House Navy/Marine Corps Caucus; C-130 Modernization Caucus; Reserve Components Caucus

AF Bases: Greater Peoria (ANG); Capital MAP (Springfield) (ANG) (Interested)

## COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS – Subcs on: Legislative Branch (Vice Chmn); Agriculture; VA-HUD

SELECT INTELLIGENCE – Subcs on: Intelligence Policy & National Security (Vice Chmn);  
Terrorism and Homeland Security (Chairman)